

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 EB-08 CG-00

DOT-00 FAA-00 PPTE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SSO-00 /052 W

-----086197 221705Z /43

O 221510Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL BARCELONA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4065

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL SEVILLE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL ORAN

UNCLAS BARCELONA 0230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, CASC (SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION)

SUBJECT: SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT: MISSING AMERICAN YACHT

"HUCK FINN"

1. POST RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMCONSULATE GENERAL SEVILLE EVENING OF MARCH 20. IT BEING REPEATED IN ITS ENTIRETY AS IT PROVIDES IMPORTANT BASIC INFORMATION. WE ARE REPORTING DETAILS SINCE YACHT SAILED FROM A PORT WITHIN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT.

QUOTE AMCIT ROBERT STILES TELEPHONED FROM MALAGA PALACIO HOTEL (952) 21-51-85, ROOM 912 TO REPORT YACHT HUCK FINN OVERDUE IN MALAGA WITH FOUR U.S. CITIZENS ON BOARD. STILES SAW YACHT LEAVE IBIZA (BALEARIC ISLANDS) AT 6 P.M. SATURDAY MARCH 11 FOR WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A THREE TO FOUR DAY SAIL TO MALAGA. YACHT DOES NOT HAVE RADIO BUT DOES HAVE RDF. IT WAS FOGGY WHEN VESSEL LEFT AND STILES FEARS THEY MAY HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY A LARGER VESSEL OR GONE AGROUND ON THE ROCKS OF FORMENTERA. THIS FORTY SEVEN FOOT ALDEN KETCH BUILT IN 1952 REGISTERED AT PORT ARTHUR, NEW

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YORK IS WHITE WITH LARGE MAST FORWARD AND SMALLER MAST AFT. U.S. CITIZENS RONALD JONES (DIABETIC-NEEDS INSULIN), PATRICK STOUT, WILLIAM KEYES AND JAMES MCGIVERN ALL HAVE FAMILIES IN CALIFORNIA AND STILES WILL NOTIFY FAMILIES HIMSELF LATER IF NECESSARY. IF ACCIDENT OCCURRED MARCH 11 STILES ESTIMATES THEY MIGHT BE IN SMALL BOAT 150-200 MILES EAST OF FORMENTERA. WE ARE CHECKING WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES REGARDING PORTS

IN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DOING SAME, INCLUDING SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS IF NECESSARY. FOUCHE. UNQUOTE.

2. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF MESSAGE, WE CONTACTED OUR CONSULAR AGENT IN PALMA DE MALLORCA, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT SPANISH SAR HEADQUARTERED THERE WITH REQUEST FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT. CONAGENT COMPLIED. HE REPORTED BACK THAT EVENING TO SAY THAT SPANISH AUTHORITIES WERE COORDINATING WITH HIGHER AUTHORITY IN CARTAGENA DUE TO TIME LAPSE OF 9 DAYS BUT THAT SEARCH WOULD BE LAUNCHED THE NEXT DAY.

3. IN ADDITION TO CONTACT WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES, POST CONTACTED ADMIRAL C.C. SMITH OF U.S. SIXTH FLEET, WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN PORT. AFTER CONSULTATION, ADMIRAL SMITH PERSONALLY PASSED INSTRUCTIONS TO DAO MADRID WITH RESPECT TO COORDINATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF FLEET VESSELS OPERATING IN THE AREA. ALL FACETS OF MILITARY SAR ACTIVITIES WITH CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS WERE TO BE COORDINATED THROUGH CONFIRMED NAPLES, ITALY IN CONFORMANCE WITH MESSAGE SENT OUT BY DAO.

4. POST IS IN CONTACT WITH MR. ROBERT STILES, FRIEND OF PERSONS MANNING THE HUCK FINN. CONOFFICER HAS EXPLAINED STEPS TAKEN SO FAR AND NATURE OF U.S. SIXTH FLEET INVOLVEMENT. HE APPEARS SATISFIED WITH EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF. HE ASKS HOWEVER, THAT NOK NOT RPT NOT BE CONTACTED OR NOTIFIED.

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5. DEPT. WILL BE KEPT ADVISED AS SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT CONTINUES.

6. FOR TUNIS, ALGIERS AND ORAN: AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY WISH TO ALERT AUTHORITIES IN YOUR AREA. SINN

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